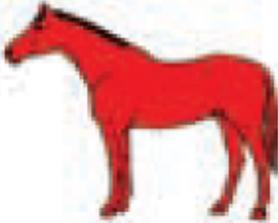
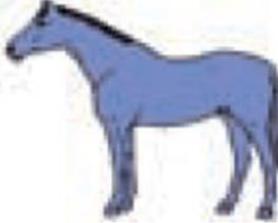
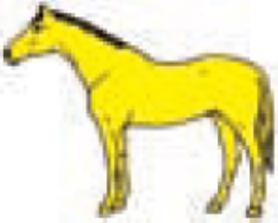
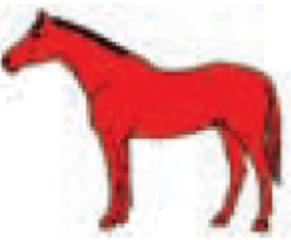
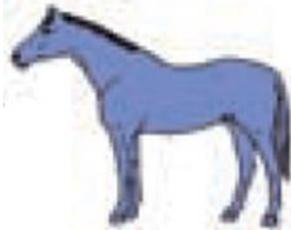
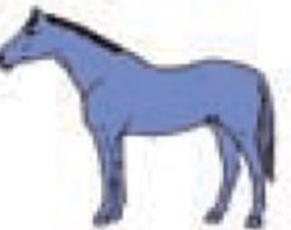
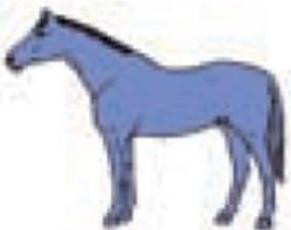


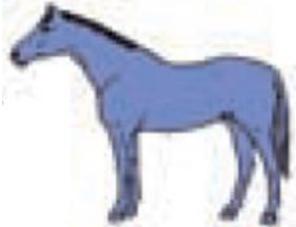
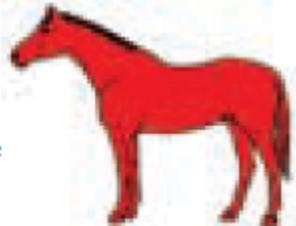
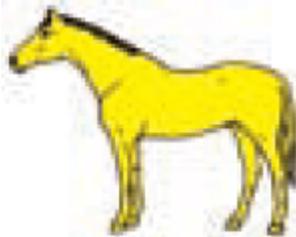
A Local Guide to Pasture Weeds Poisonous to Horses

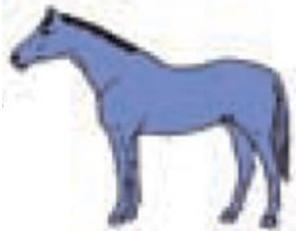
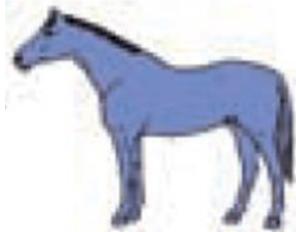
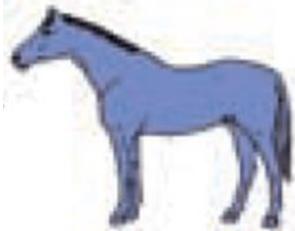
		
Plants are highly toxic to horses, are commonly found in areas where horses are kept and/or plants are palatable to horses. Plant will cause severe poisoning if ingested.	Plants are known to be toxic to horses, but are not commonly eaten, are only toxic under certain conditions, are not commonly found in horse areas, or are commonly found in pastures but do not cause serious poisoning	Plants cause only mild and transient poisoning, or plants that need to be ingested in very large quantities before poisoning will occur.

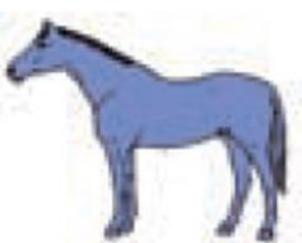
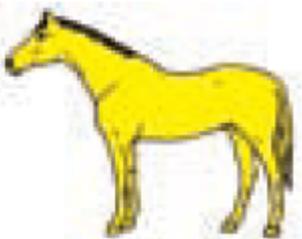
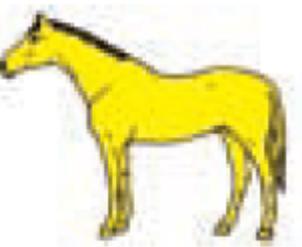
Please note – This guide has been prepared as an introduction to weeds poisonous to horses that may be found in the area. It is likely to not contain every weed that is poisonous to horses. Management options should be considered for your specific circumstance.

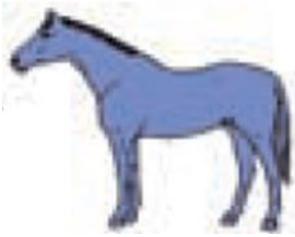
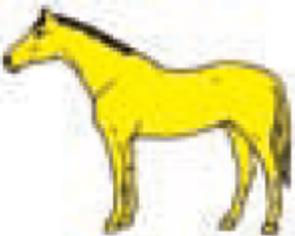
Weed Name and Photo	Danger Guide	Impacts	Management Options
<p>Paterson's Curse</p> 		<p>Causes pyrrolizidine alkaloid poisoning. Can occur in both acute and chronic form, with signs including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food refusal - Depression - Jaundice - Abdominal swelling - Signs of colic - Behavioural changes (including nervousness or excitability) - Loss of condition - Aimless wandering - Death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures - Herbicide foliar spray, suggested chemicals include Amicide, Grazon Extra, Kamba 500, Roundup, Tordon. - Establish competitive pastures. - Minimise summer and autumn grazing pressure on lightly infested pastured to maintain good ground cover - Graze non-pregnant goats or sheep in spring to early summer to suppress seed set (do not leave animals on weed continuously or toxicity may occur)

<p>Fireweed</p> 		<p>Plants contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids. Horses may eat fireweed if fodder is scarce, which may contribute to pyrrolizidine alkaloid poisoning when consumed along with other toxic plants. For pyrrolizidine alkaloid signs, see Paterson's Curse.</p> <p>**WEED OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures - Herbicide foliar spray, suggested chemicals include Amicide, Hotshot, Grazon Extra. - Establish competitive pastures. - Minimise summer and autumn grazing pressure on lightly infested pastures to maintain good ground cover - Graze non-pregnant goats or sheep in spring to early summer to suppress seed set (do not leave animals on weed continuously or toxicity may occur)
<p>Blue Heliotrope</p> 		<p>Plants contain pyrrolizidine alkaloids. Horses may eat Blue Heliotrope if fodder is scarce, which may contribute to pyrrolizidine alkaloid poisoning when consumed along with other toxic plants. For pyrrolizidine alkaloid signs, see Paterson's Curse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures - Herbicide foliar spray, suggested chemicals include Grazon Extra, Kamba 500, Tordon. - Establish competitive pastures. - Minimise summer and autumn grazing pressure on lightly infested pastures to maintain good ground cover - Graze non-pregnant goats or sheep in spring to early summer to suppress seed set (do not leave animals on weed continuously or toxicity may occur)
<p>Johnson Grass</p> 		<p>All sorghums contain cyanogenic glycosides, which are responsible for plant-related cyanide poisoning. Acute poisoning signs can occur within 10 mins to 1 hr, and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid breathing - Low blood pressure - Bright red mucus membranes - Convulsions - Coma, respiratory failure, death <p>For chronic poisoning signs, see Grain Sorghum</p>	<p>Young sorghum pastures are not safe for grazing, especially if damaged by frosts, drought or storms.</p> <p>If feeding sorghum hay, ensure that it is properly cured. Fresh or green sorghum hay has the potential to contain high levels of poison.</p>

<p>Grain Sorghum</p>  <p><small>www.alamy.com - DOKRNOY</small></p>		<p>All sorghums contain cyanogenic glycosides, which are responsible for plant-related cyanide poisoning. Chronic poisoning signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hind limb incoordination - Urinary incontinence - Constipation - Weight loss - Urinary tract infections <p>For acute poisoning signs, see Johnson Grass</p>	<p>Young sorghum pastures are not safe for grazing, especially if damaged by frosts, drought or storms.</p> <p>If feeding sorghum hay, ensure that it is properly cured. Fresh or green sorghum hay has the potential to contain high levels of poison.</p>
<p>Mother of Millions</p> 		<p>Contains cardiac glycosides, which are extremely toxic. Signs appear soon after ingestion, and symptoms progress rapidly. Signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colic - Lethargy and weakness - Diarrhoea - Abnormal heart beat and weak pulse - Cold extremities - Sweating - Shortness of breath - Death from heart failure usual occurs 12-48 hrs after ingestion <p>**WEED OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures, especially when plant is flowering or when other fodder is scarce - Do not grow as ornamental plant - Improve pastures to increase desirable grasses - Using thick gloves, avoid contact with sap and remove individual plants by hand (remove all plant material), disposing of them by burning, or bagging and binning - Herbicide foliar spray, suggested chemicals include Amicide, Grazon Extra, Flagship 200, with added surfactant.
<p>Noogoora Burr</p> 		<p>Contains carboxyatractyloside. Ingestion causes severe liver damage when eaten in large quantities. Signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depression - Increased respiratory rate - Incoordination - Rigidity of limbs - Neck and limb muscle contractions - Convulsions, coma and death may occur in severe cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures - Establish competitive pastures - Using thick gloves to protect from spines, and pull individual plants by hand - Foliar spray, suggested chemicals include Amicide, Roundup Bioactive, Tordon.

<p>Buffel Grass</p> 		<p>Contains soluble oxalates associated with a condition known as nutritional secondary hyperparathyroidism, or 'big head'. Signs develop usually after 6-8 months of grazing (but may be as soon as 2 months). Signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lameness - Stiff and shortened gait - Joint tenderness - Loss of condition even when plenty of pasture is available - Swollen jawbones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on pastures dominated by soluble oxalate grasses for period longer than 1 month. This is particularly important when grasses are rapidly growing. - Use a mix of pasture grasses and legumes in horse paddocks that are not associated with big head - Encourage growth of the legume component of the pasture - Feed a calcium and phosphorus supplement as advised by a veterinarian
<p>Kikuyu</p> 		<p>Contains soluble oxalates associated with a condition known as nutritional secondary hyperparathyroidism, or 'big head'. Signs develop usually after 6-8 months of grazing (but may be as soon as 2 months). Signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lameness - Stiff and shortened gait - Joint tenderness - Loss of condition even when plenty of pasture is available - Swollen jawbones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on pastures dominated by soluble oxalate grasses for period longer than 1 month. This is particularly important when grasses are rapidly growing. - Use a mix of pasture grasses and legumes in horse paddocks that are not associated with big head - Encourage growth of the legume component of the pasture - Feed a calcium and phosphorus supplement as advised by a veterinarian
<p>Purple Pigeon Grass</p> 		<p>Contains soluble oxalates associated with a condition known as nutritional secondary hyperparathyroidism, or 'big head'. Signs develop usually after 6-8 months of grazing (but may be as soon as 2 months). Signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lameness - Stiff and shortened gait - Joint tenderness - Loss of condition even when plenty of pasture is available - Swollen jawbones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on pastures dominated by soluble oxalate grasses for period longer than 1 month. This is particularly important when grasses are rapidly growing. - Use a mix of pasture grasses and legumes in horse paddocks that are not associated with big head - Encourage growth of the legume component of the pasture - Feed a calcium and phosphorus supplement as advised by a veterinarian

<p>Castor Oil Plant</p> 		<p>Contains ricin, a toxic lectin. Signs can appear within hours or days of ingestions. Signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of appetite - Colic - Diarrhoea, containing blood in severe cases - Weight loss - Dehydration - Death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures - Individual plants can be pulled out by hand - Herbicide foliar spray, suggested chemicals include Amicide
<p>Flatweed</p> 		<p>Implicated as the cause of the condition known as Australian stringhalt. Signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involuntary flexion and delayed extension of the hocks (fetlock may strike the belly) - Wasting of the muscles around the hindquarters - 'Roaring' may develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures - Individual plants can be pulled out by hand - Establish competitive pastures - Herbicide foliar spray
<p>Dandelion</p> 		<p>Implicated as the cause of the condition known as Australian stringhalt. Signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involuntary flexion and delayed extension of the hocks (fetlock may strike the belly) - Wasting of the muscles around the hindquarters - 'Roaring' may develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures - Individual plants can be pulled out by hand - Establish competitive pastures - Herbicide foliar spray

<p>Blackberry Nightshade</p> 		<p>Contains a variety of toxic compounds. Ingestion of toxins affect the nervous system and may produce signs such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depression - Drowsiness - Dilated pupils - Salivation - Laboured breathing - Incoordination - Muscle weakness - Involuntary urination - Convulsions - Paralysis - Loss of consciousness <p>May affect gastrointestinal system, signs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colic - Diarrhoea that may contain blood - Constipation and intestinal stasis (food not moving through gut) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures - Individual plants can be pulled out by hand - Herbicide foliar spray, suggested chemicals include Kamba 500 (under permit 11463), Roundup Biactive (with Pulse) (under permit 9868)
<p>Marshmallow</p> 		<p>Poisoning is rare as plants are usually unpalatable. The toxin is unknown. Young animals seem to be most at risk. Signs of poisoning include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Profuse sweating - Rapid breathing - Incoordination (stagers) - Muscle tremors - Symptoms worsen when animal is forced to move or is otherwise stressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid grazing horses on infested pastures - Individual plants can be pulled out by hand - Establish competitive pastures - Herbicide foliar spray, suggested chemicals include Hotshot, Broadstrike, Roundup

Reference and Further Reading:

Weeds of Southern Qld, 3rd Edition (Weed Society of Qld)

Plants Poisonous to Horses, An Australian Field Guide (RIRDC)

<https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/plants/weeds-pest-animals-ants/weeds>

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